State of Palestine
Ministry of Health
Minister's Office

دولـــة فـلـسـطين
وزارة الصحة
مكتب الوزير

Updated Report: Thursday, 4th of January 2024

The Ninetieth Day of the Israeli aggression against Palestine

Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine

catastrophic situation in numbers the deadliest year for Palestinians

From October 7 until January 4th , 2024

Some of the information contained in this report is as of Wednesday evening, 3rd of January 2023.

The Emergency Operations Center at the Ministry of Health in Ramallah supervises the data collection process through its offices in Gaza. Numbers are updated every 24 hours. These numbers reflect confirmed statistics only but do not necessarily reflect all victims due to the fact that many victims are still missing under the rubble.

The escalating atrocities in Palestine as a result of Israeli aggression surpass mere numerical reporting, constituting severe violations of all human rights. The health system is deliberately targeted, amounting to brutal war on the Palestinian people. This insufferable situation demands immediate intervention. We call upon all international humanitarian and health organizations to urgently enter Gaza, ensuring protection for health workers, facilities, and civilians. A tangible advocacy for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the ongoing siege on Gaza is imperative to halt this humanitarian crisis.[1][2][3]

Current Situation in numbers: (Gaza)

- There is no safe place in Gaza strip extensive Israeli occupation bombardment persisted throughout the Gaza Strip from air, land, and sea especially in the refugee camps in central Gaza.
- At least 22,313 Palestinian civilians are martyrs killed by the Israeli Occupation in Gaza since October 7th, 2023. About 70 per cent of those are women (more than 5,300) and children (more than 9,000). As of then, 57,296 Palestinians have been injured. There are records of around 1,813 families with multiple fatalities.
- It is estimated that 7,000 are missing under rubble. Obtaining accurate figures about missing persons due to continues attacks and inadequate rescue missions.
- The UN and humanitarian partners face challenges delivering crucial aid north of Wadi Gaza for three days due to access delays, denials, and aggressive Israeli occupation bombardment in the area.

[1] https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-un-experts-call-international-community-prevent-genocide-against

[2] https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-un-experts-decry-bombing-of-hospitals-and-schools-as-crimes-against-humanity-call-for-prevention-of-genocide/

[3] https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20231229-pre-01-00-en.pdf?fbclid=PAAaanjzZcW1N3X8xUa5n2vOtSmJXRZGtuX25ee7DicJ6lvDv9355FU9Nco_w_aem_Af1J7V-j8lYZ0pM_D1CQooNZ6b2lctzS9pzFrRP92oaCO9tBVKTDkMB8DYqdS1aGUDk

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- Urgently needed medicines, intended to support over 100,000 people for 30 days, and eight trucks of food for those facing severe food insecurity, remain undelivered to the north areas.
- The Israeli Occupation bombed Al Amal hospital and PRCS in Khan Younis multiple times on January 3, causing unconfirmed casualties. The bombing followed a prior attack on January 2, resulting in five fatalities, including a five-day-old baby, and damage to a PRCS training center.
- OCHA and WHO observed extensive damage and displacement of civilians at Al Amal hospital, with an estimated 14,000 people seeking shelter during the attack.
- The amount of aid reaching Gaza continues to be significantly insufficient. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator has stated that the current situation is impossible for both the people of Gaza and those attempting to provide assistance. The urgent plea emphasizes the need for an end to the ongoing Israeli occupation attacks.
- Since 11 October, the Gaza Strip has been under an electricity blackout, after the Israeli occupation cut off the electricity supply, and fuel reserves for Gaza's sole power plant were depleted. The communications and fuel shutdown continues to significantly hinder the aid community's efforts to assess the full extent of needs in Gaza and to adequately respond to the deepening humanitarian crisis.
- **Forced Displacement:**
  - Obtaining an accurate figure of the total number of Forcibly Displaced Persons remains challenging. 85% of the population in Gaza (around 1.93 million civilians) are forcibly displaced. Nearly 1.2 million FDPs were registered in 154 UNRWA facilities across Gaza, of whom about one million are registered in 94 UNRWA shelters in the south. Obtaining accurate data regarding the forcibly displaced persons is challenging, given difficulties in tracking FDPs staying with host families or in the streets.
  - Rafah governorate has become the primary place for displaced individuals, accommodating over one million people in an exceedingly high-density environment. This surge in population is a consequence of heightened Israeli aggression in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, compounded by evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military.
- **Health Care Access:**
  - 9/36 of hospitals in Gaza are partially functioning, at the same time 19/72 of PHC are functioning. There is no information available about the north, Gaza city or Khan Younis.
  - Average bed occupancy in functioning hospitals is 351% and ICU bed occupancy of 261%
  - Only 972 patients were referred to receive medical care aboard, including 571 injured and 401 patients including cancer patients. There is critical importance of prioritizing the evacuation of over 5,300 individuals facing severe and complex medical conditions in Gaza to receive the necessary and appropriate care abroad.
- **Acute shortage of supplies at health facilities:**
  - There is an acute shortage of medicines and medical supplies: anesthesia, antibiotics, IV fluids, pain medications, insulin, blood, and blood products.
  - Medical equipment Increasingly not functional at hospitals (e.g. monitors, ventilators, incubators, x-ray and CT, lab analyzers, anesthesia machines), which are dependent on electricity.
  - There is an acute shortage of fuel, water, food, and electricity in hospitals and medical facilities.
- **Public health catastrophe is rapidly evolving in Gaza:**
  - Imminent risk of communicable disease outbreaks due to unsanitary conditions, overcrowding and the extreme load on the health system rendering it dysfunctional.

STATE OF PALESTINE
Mai Alkaila
Minister of Health

- There is a high surge of cases recorded since mid-October: 179,003 cases of acute respiratory infections, 136,418 Cases of diarrhea, 55,472 Cases of scabies and lice, 38,010 Cases of skin rashes 5,330 Cases of chickenpox 4,683 Cases of jaundice.
- Gaza faces a critical stock-out of vaccinations, contributing to over 360,000 cases of infectious diseases in UNRWA shelters.
- Decomposing remains pose a risk, heightening the threat of a public health crisis.
- Forcibly Displaced Persons (FDPs) are confronting the dual challenges of displacement and harsh winter conditions, including the risk of flooding. The combination of being forcibly displaced and exposed to cold weather poses significant hardships for this vulnerable population.
- Vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, pregnant and breastfeeding women, individuals recovering from injuries or surgeries, and those with weakened immune systems, face challenging shelter conditions.

Health Needs and Risks of non-Communicable Diseases Long term conditions:

- 1,100 Patients in need of kidney dialysis
- More than 485,000 People with mental health disorders prior to the recent aggression. There is an increased risk of multiple psychological effects stemming from the intense bombardment, displacement and food insecurity coupled with severe physical injuries such as the loss of body parts. These challenges are further compounded by the devastating impact of seeing the bodies of the casualties around them and losing family members, homes, and dignity.
- 225,000 People with high blood pressure,45,000 Patients living with cardiovascular disease 71,000 Patients living with diabetes.
- More than 2,000 People diagnosed with cancer each year, including 122 children.
- People in Gaza are facing daily intense psychological stressors, including bombardment and severe barriers to fulfilling basic needs including acute shortage of needed medications.

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health:

- 52,000 Pregnant women, around 183 Births per day, 5,500 Babies have been born in the last month.
- 61% incubators are in the north requiring electricity, 130 Premature infants depend on incubators.
- Pregnant women and displaced children in shelters face challenges such as thirst, malnutrition, insufficient healthcare, dehydration, respiratory and skin ailments, severe cold, and lack of vaccinations.

Food insecurity: The entire population in the Gaza Strip (2.2 million people) is at an imminent risk of famine as reported by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) on December 21

- 2.08 million at phase 3 (high level of acute food insecurity)
- 930,000 people at phase 4 (emergency level),
- 378,000 people at phase 5 (catastrophic level)

Recorded attacks on Health Facilities and personnel:

- In total 294 attacks on health facilities and personnel. This is the highest recorded total of attacks on healthcare facilities and their personnel.
- 326 health personnel martyred and 764 injured by the Israeli occupation in attacks.
- 65 Health workers detained/arrested.
- 94 Health facilities affected including 26 Hospitals damaged, in addition to 76 Ambulances affected Including 38 That sustained damaged.

"Unless something changes, the world faces the prospect of almost a quarter of Gaza's 2 million population - close to half- a million human beings - dying within a year. These would be largely deaths from preventable health causes and the collapse of the medical system. It's a crude estimate, but one that is data-driven, using the terrifyingly real numbers of deaths in previous and comparable conflicts." Prof Devi Sridhar, chair of global public health, University of Edinburgh

The West Bank, including Jerusalem:

- UNICEF's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa stated that "this year has been the deadliest year on record for children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with conflict-related violence reaching unprecedented levels."
- Since 7 October, 325 Palestinians, have been martyred by the Israeli Occupation forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, 2023 is one of the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank.
- Since 7 October, Israeli occupation forces have injured 3,822 Palestinian civilians, including at least 576 children.
- Since 7 October, at least 198 Palestinian households comprising 1,208 people, including 586 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from at least 15 herding/Bedouin communities. More than half of the displacements occurred on 12, 15, and 28 October, affecting seven communities.

Urgent Needs:

- Immediate cessation of Israeli brutal war against Palestinian civilians.
- Urgent implementation of international humanitarian laws protecting health institutions and civilians.
- Immediate and unconditional entry of humanitarian and health supplies into Gaza.
- Aiding in evacuating the wounded in need for treatment abroad.
- Halt forcible displacement of civilians.
- Urgent support for search and rescue operations.

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